



Lower Merion School District

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LMSD Board of School Directors Meeting Highlights

Vol 1. No. 3 - Highlights from the June 6, 2016 Education & Supplementary Regular Meeting

For a complete agenda, visit the BoardDocs section of the District Website. [Click here](#) to view.

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD – PUBLIC WORK SESSION

Prior to the Education & Supplementary Meeting on Monday night, the Board hosted a public work session to discuss facilities issues related to enrollment growth in Lower Merion School District. Superintendent Copeland joined members of District's operations team and architects to answer public and Board questions to date and discuss various options and potential costs across all school levels. The work session was part of extensive, ongoing efforts to plan for increasing enrollment across the District. To view a slideshow of the presentation, [click here](#).

EDUCATION MEETING PRESENTATIONS

Featured School: Belmont Hills Elementary

Belmont Hills principal Dr. Pamula Hart presented a recap of the school year, entitled "A Year of Growth." In the context of the LMSD strategic plan, Dr. Hart highlighted school initiatives and programs at Belmont Hills during the 2015-16 school year that emphasized critical thinking, collaboration, creativity, culture and community. To view a slideshow of the presentation, [click here](#).

Strategic Plan Update

The District's strategic planning leadership team, led by Megan Shafer (Senior Director of Policy, Personnel, and School Programs), provided an update to the Board on implementation progress during the 2015-16 school year. Highlights included a discussion of action steps and products to date and next steps for each of the five strategic plan pathway teams. The leadership team also identified key areas of focus for the 2016-17 school year:

- Develop and enact new protocols for the creation, review, and revision of curriculum
- Examine the ways we use space, time, personnel, and student grouping patterns
- Incorporate greater student voice into LMSD learning experience
- Begin to review and revise the K-12 assessment and reporting system
- Support broader implementation of a community resource network

Dr. Kristina Ayers Paul (Special Assistant for Program Evaluation) introduced and clarified the role of a research and development team that will provide research-based information to inform conversations, decisions, and action plans related to the plan. To view a slideshow of the presentation, [click here](#).

Secondary Grading Policy

Assistant Superintendent Dr. Scott Eveslage provided an update on proposed changes to the District's grading scale (Administrative Regulation 213: Grading of Student Progress) that would better align the District's secondary grading scale with other high-achieving high schools and College Board standards. The most significant change under review for implementation next year (2016-17) is expanding the numeric scale for letter grades from an 8-

point range to 10-point range (change A = 92-100 to A= 90-100, etc.). Other changes would include providing an additional level distinction for letter grades (keeping the plus "+" distinction and adding minus "-" identification on report cards). These changes were also discussed with the Board and public at a recent Policy Committee meeting. [Click here to access](#) the presentation.

The proposed changes follow a comprehensive, year-long study led by Principal Sean Hughes of Lower Merion HS of the most current research on secondary grading policies and a review of grading practices at high-achieving public and private high schools in our region and across the country. The process included conversations with college admissions officers, multiple focus group discussions with LMSD staff, students and parents in addition to public presentations to the Board of School Directors.

Discussion about the proposed changes to the grading scale will continue at the Board Business Meeting next Monday, June 13 at 8 PM in the Board Room of the LMSD administration building. Public feedback may also be provided via email at communitycomments@lmsd.org. A letter with more detailed information will be sent to LMSD families this week. [Click here](#) to view.

UPCOMING MEETING DATES

June 9 Facilities/Purchasing Committee @ 8:30 AM; June 13 Regular Board @ 8:00 PM.

LMSD BUSINESS MEETING HIGHLIGHTS is distributed to the community and staff of Lower Merion School District to highlight actions taken at Board Meetings. It is not intended to take the place of the minutes of the meeting. Citizens are encouraged to attend meetings; for information, visit www.lmsd.org